



JANUARY 2014

ARTICLE ALERT

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER | PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION | U.S. EMBASSY JAKARTA

U.S. Embassy Jakarta Mission Statement

The U.S. Mission partners with Indonesia to strengthen the bonds between our people and our governments to promote and protect democracy, security, and sustainable prosperity for our people, the region, and the world.

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State of the Union Address, January 28, 2014



President Obama's State of the Union Address in 2013

The State of the Union is an annual address presented before a joint session of Congress and held in the House of Representatives Chamber at the U.S. Capitol. The address not only reports on the condition of the nation, but also allows the president to outline his legislative agenda and national priorities to Congress.

State of the Union Is Tool for Proposing Policy

Unlike an inaugural address, which is meant to inspire, the annual State of the Union speech proposes policies the president would like to see Congress enact over the coming year. It is also a requirement under the U.S. Constitution, obliging the president to inform U.S. lawmakers on how the United States is doing, but also giving him an opportunity to directly propose legislation.

Presidents have sometimes used the speech to propose important policies. In 1823, President James Monroe warned European powers to leave the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere alone, a policy that became known as the Monroe Doctrine. President Franklin Roosevelt used his 1940 address to call for U.S. aid to victims of Nazism and to proclaim U.S. support for his Four Freedoms: freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of speech and freedom of worship. Source: <http://goo.gl/kEbEYC>

RELATED LINKS

- ◆ EJJUSA: President-Speak. What the State of the Union Says to You | <http://goo.gl/GSP9uY>

- ◆ State of the Union Address Deeply Rooted in American History | <http://goo.gl/7KjlfR>
- ◆ Annual Ritual Brings Washington Together | <http://goo.gl/9ESFbo>
- ◆ State of the Union Addresses from former U.S. President are available at Public Papers of the Presidents from Federal Register | <http://goo.gl/03tUjy>
- ◆ Behind The Scenes: Writing the 2012 State of the Union Address (Video) <http://goo.gl/4ujf4>
- ◆ The Federal Government: How the U.S. Is Governed <http://goo.gl/wxaX3A>
- ◆ Get Ready: President Obama's 2014 State of the Union Address | <http://goo.gl/ySj96p>

January 20
Birthday of
Martin
Luther King, Jr.



The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (the MLK Holiday) is a celebration to honor the life and achievements of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., (1929–1968), the 1964 Nobel Peace laureate and the individual most associated with the triumphs of the African-American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s. As political organizer, supremely skilled orator and advocate of nonviolent protest, King was pivotal in persuading his fellow Americans to end the legal segregation that prevailed throughout the South and parts of other regions, and in sparking support for the civil rights legislation that established the legal framework for racial equality in the United States.

Celebrated on the third Monday of January, the MLK Holiday is a time when the nation pauses to not only remember Dr. King's life and work, but also to honor his legacy by making the holiday a day of community service, "a day on, not a day off." Through the MLK Day of Service, Americans across the country come together to serve their neighbors and communities. The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves Americans closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community".

The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to the nation's most pressing national problems.

Sources: mlkday.gov and serve.gov

DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY

1. In New Year, Half Are Looking Forward to Mid-term Elections. Pew Research, January 2014.

As 2014 begins and the midterm election campaigns heat up, about half of the public (51%) is especially looking forward to November's congressional elections while 49% are not looking forward to them.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 2-5 among 1,005 adults, finds that 58% are looking forward to next month's Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, while 42% are not. A majority (55%)

also is looking forward to next month's Super Bowl. Read more at <http://goo.gl/fYxyl8>

2. Improving the Quality of Democracy in Indonesia: Toward a Theory of Action. By R. William Liddle. *Indonesia*, No. 96, Special Issue: Wealth, Power, and Contemporary Indonesian Politics (October 2013), pp. 59-80.

Distributing political resources more equally is the greatest challenge facing modern democracies like Indonesia. This essay develops the rudiments of a theory of action that can em-

power scholars and activists to meet this challenge. It builds on the political philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli's original concepts of virtue and fortuna and recent elaborations by four Machiavelli-influenced American political scientists: Richard Neustadt, James MacGregor Burns, John Kingdon, and Richard Samuels. Finally, it offers several contemporary examples of political action in Indonesia that may provide insights for future scholars and activists who wish to improve the quality of democratic life in the nation. Full text is available at the IRC

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

3. Cities Create Music, Cultural Festivals to Make Money. By Chad Kaydo, *Governing*, January 2014.

Municipal officials and entrepreneurs see the power of cultural events as a way to spur short-term tourism while shaping an image of the host city as a cool, dynamic location where companies and citizens in modern, creative industries can thrive. In 1871 the Great Chicago Fire killed more than 300 people, leveled the city's central business district and left more than 100,000 people—a third of its population—homeless. A massive rebuilding effort followed, re-establishing the city's status as a center of transportation and trade. By 1893, the Chicago World's Fair drew 27 million visitors and profoundly influenced art, architecture and design. Read more at <http://goo.gl/oZHsC6>

4. What America Won in the 'War on Poverty.' By Zachary Karabell. *Atlantic Monthly*, January 2014.

In an unabashed endorsement of government action to alleviate the plight of the poor, this week President Obama commemorated the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty with his own call for new policies to address the continued struggles of tens of millions of Americans. In his official statement, Obama remarked that, "In the richest nation on earth, far too many children are still born into poverty, far too few have a fair shot to escape it, and Americans of all races and backgrounds experience wages and incomes that aren't rising... That does not mean... abandoning the War on Poverty." Read more at <http://goo.gl/D8GQ70>

5. Banking on Growth. By Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. *Council of Foreign Relations*, December 2013.

The United States has made economic development a central tenet of its national security policy, alongside defense and diplomacy. One of the best and most cost-effective avenues for furthering economic development is investing in locally owned businesses, and yet the United States currently has no means for effectively and efficiently doing so. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have shown great potential in spurring economies, but their owners—especially women—are often unable to acquire the skills, resources, and support necessary to grow and sustain their businesses. Read more at <http://goo.gl/b7uzGd>

ENERGY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

6. Finding the Next Edison.

By Derek Thompson. Atlantic Monthly, January/February 2014.

The inspiration for Rafael Hwang's million-dollar idea came, as inspiration sometimes does, from Jay Leno. It was January 25, 2013, and Hwang, then a 22-year-old Arizona State senior, was watching The Tonight Show at his apartment in Glendale. One of the evening's guests was Ben Kaufman, the ebullient founder of Quirky, a manufacturing company that builds products dreamed up by a global throng of amateur inventors. Kaufman showed off his newest gosh-wow creations to the studio

audience with a circus showman's flair (an egg-yolk extractor! a citrus spritzer you plug right into the lemon!). Home on the couch, Hwang thought, *Hey, I can make something better than that.* Without experience in engineering or design, Hwang technically couldn't "make" anything—at least, not by himself. But he had an idea about how to answer a small, recurring question for millions of supermarket shoppers like himself: Am I running low on eggs? Read more at <http://goo.gl/bNS3iV>

7. International Collaboration Is Key for Future Space Ventures. IIP Digital, January 2014

The space age began more than 50 years ago, driven by the competition that marked the spirit of the Cold War. Today, with more than 80 nations working together to use data from the International Space Station, collaboration has supplanted competition as an organizational principle for space activities. The transition was marked January 9 in Washington at the first high-level meeting of the International Space Exploration Forum. More than 30 nations sent top officials to plot humanity's new course beyond the bounds of Earth. Read more: <http://goo.gl/rrF0Iz>

ALL ABOUT AMERICA

8. EJJUSA: Power Plays — Celebrating Women's Achievements. IIP Digital, December 2013.

The EJJUSA profiles women whose professional achievements help open doors for other women in challenging fields, with a special focus on women (and men) working to promote breast-cancer research. Readers can also explore book clubs, bhangra dance competitions and the mysterious world of wild bees. Plus, entrepreneurs at high-tech startups get connected, an educational program transforms Rwandan classrooms, a U.S. initiative helps preserve an ancient city in Jordan, and an expert on women's entrepreneurship reveals why women-owned businesses help propel economic development. Read more: <http://goo.gl/48Fk7h>

9. New Year's Day: A Time for Renewal. IIP Digital, December 2013.

New Year's Day in the United States is a time for fresh beginnings: hope for a better future and resolutions to improve one's behavior. Observed January 1, New Year's celebrations actually begin the night of December 31 with parties, concerts, fireworks and special events of all kinds. The day is marked in many American towns and cities with parades and U.S.-style football games. In some communities the first baby to be born on New Year's Day is honored with gifts and media coverage. The New Year itself is often symbolized by a baby wearing just a diaper, a festive hat and a sash imprinted with the year. In contrast, the concluding "old year" is depicted by illustrations of "Father

Time," an old, white-bearded man in a robe, carrying an hourglass and a scythe. Read more at <http://goo.gl/OSQyR0>

10. Understanding Islam in the U.S. Classroom. By Kazi I. Hossain, Educational Digest, January 2014.

The article offers information on strategies that are recommended to elementary school teachers to help students in the U.S. understand Muslims and the Islam religion. It discusses the importance of cultural and historical studies in making students aware of the value of Islam to its followers. It explains the extension of the discussion on religious principles and the contributions of scholars to the discipline. Full text is available at the IRC



USAID Scholarship PRESTASI PROGRAM II

A key component of the U.S. government's development program in Indonesia has always been training, and the support for both short and long-term exchange opportunities continues to be a powerful tool in helping individuals, organizations, and institutions acquire the knowledge, skills, and capacity to support Indonesia's on-going development.

Program to Extend Scholarships and Training to Achieve Sustainable Impacts Phase II (PRESTASI II) provides opportunities for Indonesians to earn Master's degrees which focus on areas that are relevant to the achievement of USAID/Indonesia and Government of Indonesia development goals.

Get detailed info about the scholarship eligibility as well as the application form at: <http://www.prestasi-iief.org/index.php/english/>

ABOUT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

GENERAL INFO

The Information Resource Center (IRC) is a sophisticated state-of-the-art research facility and information service at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta. Our goal is to provide you with accurate and authoritative information about diverse aspects of the United States as well as global topic of interests through access to extensive commercial online databases and the updated collections of books, periodicals, movie, music, audio books and games (check our collection titles via our online catalog at: <http://goo.gl/xvDgdE>).

Our professional reference specialists are trained to assist users to conduct library research as well as to retrieve information quickly and conveniently. We also conducts regular programs on English language learning, study in the U.S./ EducationUSA advising, information literacy classes, presentation/ discussion/ workshop events and movies/ gaming activities. All services, facilities and programs are available for free to the general public. With one day appointment in-advanced, public are welcomed to visit us on weekdays from 08.00 AM to 04.00 PM. The IRC is closed on Indonesian and American Holidays (check the list of holidays at: <http://goo.gl/Y99he>).

IRC PROGRAMS



Mary Ellen Countryman, Counselor for Public Diplomacy, shared with students of LPBA Mandiri, Tangerang about her experiences in celebrating Christmas Holiday in the U.S (top). Students of Library and Information Sciences of Universitas Indonesia attended IRC class on eLibraryUSA database (down).

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

January 2014

- ♦ January 24, 2014
Creative Writing with Myra M. Brown
- Morning session at 10.00-11.30 a.m.
- Afternoon session at 2.30-3.30 p.m.
- ♦ January 29, 2014
Education USA Presentation
at 2.30-3.30 p.m.

February 2014

- ♦ February 3-14, 2014
The American Film Showcase (AFS)
at 1.00-4.00 p.m.

To get more details about our program, to join them, to make visit appointment and to request for a particular program arrangement, please contact us at:

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ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM

Please write your complete name and address IN CAPITAL LETTERS, check (✓) the articles and send your request for January 2014 Article Alert items to the Information Resource Center, U.S. Embassy, before March 2014 via fax (021) 350-8466 or email (ircjakarta@state.gov)

Name:

Organization:

Complete Address:

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- () 1. In New Year, Half Are Looking Forward to Midterm
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Disclaimer: Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.